IN THE SPECIFICATION:

At Page 1, please add the following heading before heading "BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION":

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

At Page 1, please add the following paragraph after the heading "CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS":

This application claims the benefit of Japanese Application No. 2003-071867 filed March 17, 2003.

At Page 1, para. 4:

[Non-patent document 2] Baldwin, Richard G. "A Middle-Tier ~~Serer~~ Server" in "Enterprise JavaBeans: Middle-Tier Servers and J2EE", 2002, Jupitermedia Corporation, a search result for "developer.com + GAMELAN", pp. 4/12-5/12. The document is retrieved online from the following Internet location on December 11, 2002. URL:http://www.developer.com/java/other/article.php/641331

At Page 3, para. 12:

It is desirable to provide a watchdog to resume normal operations when the middletier ~~crushes~~ crashes from the viewpoint of automating the recovery. It is desirable that the watchdog recovers a middletier based on a result of periodical polling from the viewpoint of watchdog-based recovery from a ~~crush~~ crash. It is desirable that the watchdog recovers a middletier based on notification from the framework from the viewpoint of framework-based recovery from a ~~crush~~ crash.

At Page 7, para. 39:

The business logic in the middletier 4 fails when the middletier ~~crushes~~ crashes or the like. The utilization of the middletier 4 can be improved by automatically recovering a ~~crush~~ crash if occurred. It becomes possible to effectively execute applications.

At Page 7, para. 40:

As shown in FIG. 3, a watchdog 402 is used to automatically recover the ~~crushed~~ crashed middletier 4. The watchdog 402 periodically performs polling to whether or not the middletier 4 ~~crushes~~ crashes. The watchdog 402 recovers the middletier 4 when it ~~crushes~~ crashes. The watchdog 402 can be implemented by using a shell script and the like.

At Page 7, para. 41:

As shown in FIG. 4, the watchdog 402 may recover the middletier 4 based on a ~~crush~~ crash notification from the logic handler 222. A special application or the like may be used to implement the watchdog 402. A crush of the middletier 4 is notified when the logic handler 222 cannot recover an object after refreshing.